

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 860

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Walter "Pinky" Drerup on receiving the Iris Festival's "Outstanding Citizen Award".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their personal and professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Walter "Pinky" Drerup, who is the praiseworthy recipient of the Iris Festival's "Outstanding Citizen of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drerup, affectionately known to all as "Pinky," has been a cherished resident of Dresden for the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, born July 12, 1924 in Union City, he is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Drerup; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Mr. Drerup attended Westover Grammer School in Union City and Sacred Heart Grammer School in Hickman, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, "Pinky" was a dedicated and active student at Union City High School, where he proved to be a gifted leader and stellar athlete; he was the co-captain of both the football and basketball teams, and displayed his talent in tennis, boxing, swimming, and diving;

he was also named "Most Popular," "Best Athlete," and "Best All Around" by his senior class; and

WHEREAS, even at an early age, Mr. Drerup was a hard worker and dedicated his efforts in a variety of jobs including, raising pigs and calves, working at the Piggly Wiggly and Oliver Drug Store; he delivered newspapers, worked at the Produce House and Cream Station, Bennett's Clothing Store, and helped to construct the Tom Stewart Airfield; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1943, Mr. Drerup demonstrated his allegiance to his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps; he completed boot camp in San Diego and was shipped overseas on December 1, 1943 on the U.S.S. DuPage in a replacement battalion; and

WHEREAS, orders took him to Guadalcanal where he was placed in G2 of the Third Marine Division and remained there for six months before going to Saipan; his division traveled to Guam, then to Iwo Jima, and back to Guam as the war came to an end; and

WHEREAS, he arrived in the U.S. in December 1945, and began his successful career at Bay-Bee Shoe Company in the packaging and shipping departments; the company in Union City, owned by his father, manufactured soft-soled baby shoes; and

WHEREAS, in September, 1946, Walter Drerup enrolled at Murray State University in Kentucky; while he was away, Bay-Bee outgrew its small space in Union City and a satellite company in Sharon was opened; and

WHEREAS, seeing his father's need for assistance in the growing company, Mr. Drerup returned home and joined the business in March 1947; he served with probity in quality control, was a purchasing agent, conducted cost analyses, and was later named Vice-President of the Sharon plant; and

WHEREAS, the highly successful company expanded to Paris, where Walter Drerup took charge of the company and led the 200 faithful employees during nine years of operations; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, he was named President of the Dresden Bay-Bee Company, a position in which he served with acumen until 1989 when the company was sold to Stetson Boot; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his astounding professional contributions, Mr. Drerup found time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable causes as serving as President of the Dresden Rotary Club, and was a founding member of the Weakley County Country Club; and

WHEREAS, Walter Drerup epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, a consummate friend and good neighbor, Walter Drerup often stops by the Kountry Kitchen to have a cup of coffee and visit with friends, former employees and associates at Bay-Bee Shoe; and

WHEREAS, he also is an avid gardener, organizes get-togethers with former classmates, and enjoys working crossword puzzles and spending as much time as possible with family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drerup is most grateful for the love and encouragement he shares with his wife, Eileen Wilson Drerup; and

WHEREAS, they are valued and devout members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Union City; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Walter Drerup for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Walter "Pinky" Drerup, deserving recipient of the Iris Festival's "Outstanding Citizen Award," and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.